

## **WILD AND SCENIC RIVER FACT SHEET**

### **Why is BLM conducting a Wild and Scenic Rivers evaluation within the Glenwood Springs and Kremmling Field Offices?**

This fall, both field offices (FOs) will begin revising their current Resource Management Plans (RMPs), which guide the overall management of BLM-administered public lands within each FO. The BLM is required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to assess river and stream segments under its management jurisdiction as part of its RMP process. This evaluation was not conducted during past RMP processes for these FOs.

### **What are the steps of the Wild and Scenic River evaluation process?**

The wild and scenic rivers study process is composed of two main components: the inventory/eligibility phase and the study/suitability phase. The inventory phase includes identifying eligible rivers and stream segments, and assigning a tentative classification (Wild, Scenic, or Recreational). At this time, the BLM's Kremmling and Glenwood Springs FOs are **conducting only the inventory phase** of the wild and scenic rivers evaluation process.

To be eligible for designation, a river must be free flowing and contain at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) that is scenic, recreational, geological, fish related, wildlife related, historic, cultural, botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific.

### **What will be the end result of this process?**

At no time in this process or the RMP revision process will the BLM be designating Wild and Scenic River segments. Only Congress or the Secretary of Interior can make that designation. If, upon completion of the inventory phase, any river or stream segments are found to be eligible, a suitability study (study phase) will be conducted as part of the FOs RMP revision process.

During the suitability study, suitability recommendations will be developed by the BLM using input from our partners and the public during alternative development. A reasonable range of alternatives will be considered in the RMPs. River segments identified as "suitable" at the end of RMP process, will be managed to protect identified ORVs until Congress either rejects or approves the recommendation for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System or BLM readdress the suitability recommendation in future planning efforts.

### **What will the open houses cover and what information is needed from the public?**

The BLM will be presenting the results of its initial inventory efforts, provide educational materials regarding the wild and scenic rivers process, and be soliciting comments from the public and government agencies.

Because BLM is only conducting the inventory phase, the most helpful and effective comments will be on potential eligible river and stream segments, and/or the presence of potential ORV's.